

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masahito OSAWA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/598,082 (U.S. National
Stage Of PCT/JP2005/003229)

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

I.A. Filed : February 21, 2005

Confirmation No. : 9910

For : METHOD FOR PRODUCING Mg-REM-Ni BASED
HYDROGEN-ABSORBING ALLOY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby brings the following information to the attention of the Examiner, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report, issued in connection with counterpart International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/003229. A copy of the International Search Report (in English and Japanese), was enclosed with the papers when entering the National Stage on August 17, 2006. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-125172 A, together with an English language translation of the same;
 - (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. SHO 54-128931 A, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
 - (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-050351 A, together with an English language translation of the same;
 - (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-226722 A, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and
 - (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-262247 A, together with an English language Abstract of the same.
 - (6) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-323469 A, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family members U.S. Patent No. 6,130,006 and U.S. Patent No. 6,214,492.
- Applicants note that the Japanese document is cited beginning at page 2 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (7) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0073066; and
 - (8) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0197181.

Applicants further submit a copy of a Notification of Transmittal of Copies of Translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (including Forms PCT/IB/338, PCT/IB/373 and PCT/ISA/237) with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/003229, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. Above-note documents (1) – (5) were cited in the

International Preliminary Report on Patentability. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

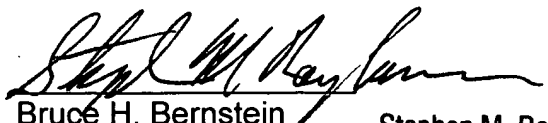
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts and translations, are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Yoshimitsu SASAKI et al.

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August 17, 2006

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| Group Unknown | |
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[illegible]

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES | NO |
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| | 9 | - 1 2 5 1 7 2 | 05/13/97 | JAPAN | | | X | |
| | 54 | - 1 2 8 9 3 1 | 10/05/79 | JAPAN | | | | |
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| | 1 | English language Abstract of JP 54-128931. |
| | 2 | English language Abstract of JP2001-226722. |
| | 3 | English language Abstract of JP2001-262247. |
| | 4 | English language Abstract of JP 11-323469. |
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DATE CONSIDERED

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